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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 09395.0001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Confirmation No. 4416
)
Chin Ying HSIAO et al.) Group Art Unit: 1653
)
Application No.: 10/822,938) Examiner: Not Yet Known
)
Filed: April 12, 2004)
)
For: A NOVEL COLLAGEN)
PRODUCTION METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.
Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English document, an English language version of a search report from the PCT Office in a corresponding application citing this document and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

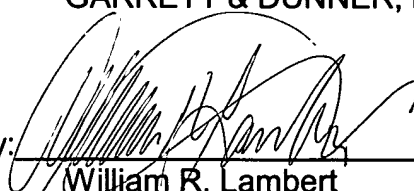
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 14, 2004

By:



William R. Lambert
Reg. No. 44,857

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO DEC 14 2004

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/822,938		
		Filing Date	April 12, 2004		
		First Named Inventor	Chin Ying HSIAO		
		Art Unit	1653		
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Known		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	09395.0001

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-3,616,205	Oct. 26, 1971	Ito et al.	
		US-3,681,093	Aug. 1, 1972	Tsuzuki et al.	
		US-5,480,427	Jan 2, 1996	Kelman et al.	
		US-6,372,794 B1	Apr. 16, 2002	Nimni	

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		DE 25 07 223 A1	Sep. 2, 1976			No
		JP 2004-173653 A	Jun. 24, 2004			Yes, Abstract only

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		ASDORNNITHEE, Somsit et al., "Isolation and Characterization of a Collagenolytic Enzyme from <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> N22," <u>Journal of Fermentation and Bioengineering</u> , 78(4): 283-287, 1994.	
		CRISTESCU, Dumitru et al., "Depolymerization of skin collagen by bacterial enzymes," <u>Chemical Abstract</u> 427217, 1 page, 1974.	
		MAKINEN, Kauko K. et al., "Purification and Properties of an Extracellular Collagenolytic Protease Produced by the Human Oral Bacterium <i>Bacillus cereus</i> ." <u>The Journal of Biological Chemistry</u> , 262(26): 12488-12495, 1987.	
		NAKAYAMA, Toru, "Thermostable Collagenolytic Activity of a Novel Thermophilic Isolate, <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Strain NTAP-1," <u>Journal of Bioscience and Bioengineering</u> , 89(6), 612-614, 2000.	
		PCT International Search Report for PCT/IB2004/001439, mailing date Oct. 7, 2004, received Oct. 13, 2004.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.